

Message Text

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SUBJ: BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF FOREIGN ENERGY PROGRAMS: GREECE

REF A. STATE 301432 (12/23/75); B. ATHENS A-146 (8/6/75);

C. ATHENS 10015 (12/19/75); D. ATHENS A-176 (9/19/75);

E. ATHENS 4505 (6/18/75); F. ATHENS 5297 (7/14/75)

1. STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE - PRIME MINISTER
IS IN FINAL ANALYSIS ACCOUNTABLE TO PARLIAMENT FOR
FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY POLICY IN
GREECE. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, MINISTRY OF COORDINATION
AND PLANNING EXERCISES KEY ROLE IN DETERMINATION OF ENERGY
PROGRAMS, WITH MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY, AND OF CULTURE AND
SCIENCE PLAYING SUBSIDIARY ROLES.

2. OUTLINE OF ENERGY RESPONSIBILITIES BY AGENCY -
A) COORDINATION MINISTRY HAS OVERALL SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ENERGY POLICY. THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD WAS CREATED IN 1975
TO ACT AS KEY ADVISORY BODY TO COORDINATION MINISTRY ON
ENERGY MATTERS (SEE ATHENS 5297).

B) MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY HAS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION

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THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM SERVICE, WHICH CONTROLS LOCAL OIL

REFINING AND PETROLEUM PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION AND THE PUBLIC PETROLEUM CORPORATION, ESTABLISHED IN 1975 AS A SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC PETROLEUM RESOURCES (SEE ATHENS A-176). THE PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION (PPC), THE SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRIC POWER UTILITY, REPORTS NOMINALLY TO THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME THE AGENCY'S MAJOR DECISIONS ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE CLEARED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF COORDINATION. IN ADDITION TO PRODUCING VIRTUALLY

ALL OF GREECE'S ELECTRIC POWER, THE PPC IS PLANNING FUTURE ENERGY PRODUCTION AND PERFORMING ESSENTIAL RESEARCH ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF HYDRO, LIGNITE, GEOTHERMAL AND NUCLEAR POWER.

C. THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE PROVIDES GENERAL SUPERVISION TO THE GREEK ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AND LICENSING (GOG IS CONSIDERING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GREECE'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR OPERATION IN MID-1980'S); AND TO THE DEMOCRITUS RESEARCH CENTER, WHICH OPERATES A SMALL NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM, PARTICIPATES IN A URANIUM EXPLORATION PROJECT WITH THE UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN NORTHERN GREECE, AND IS FOLLOWING OVERSEAS RESEARCH IN SOLAR ENERGY. THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL RESEARCH (NIGEMIR) OPERATES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE AS A SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY WHICH, AS ITS NAME SUGGESTS, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MINERAL PROSPECTING AND RESEARCH, INCLUDING LIGNITE - AN IMPORTANT INDIGENOUS ENERGY RESOURCE.

D. HELLENIC SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF SOLAR AND AEOLIAN ENERGY IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS ATTEMPTED TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.

3. ENERGY OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - THE ENERGY CRISIS HAS HAD A STRONG IMPACT ON THE GREEK ECONOMY, EXACERBATING THE PERENIAL TRADE DEFICIT AND CONTRIBUTING TO RISING PRICE LEVELS. KEYSTONE OF CURRENT GOG POLICY IS MINIMIZATION OF DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN ENERGY RESOURCES. THROUGH THE RAPID IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ENERGY SOURCES, ESPECIALLY LIGNITE AND OIL. GREECE RELIES ENTIRELY AT PRESENT ON IMPORTS FOR OIL REQUIREMENTS (AT A COST OF ABOUT \$800 MILLION IN 1975), AND LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 75 PERCENT OF PRIMARY ENERGY INPUTS. FOLLOWING RECENT DISCOVERY OF THASSOS OIL IT APPEARS PROBABLE THAT GREECE WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONAL REQUIREMENT BY THE END OF THIS DECADE. FIFTY OIL EXPLORATION APPLICATIONS BY FOREIGN COMPANIES WHICH CURRENTLY AWAIT GOG ACTION PROVIDE HOPE FOR INCREASED SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FUTURE. NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS HAVE ALSO BEEN LOCATED NEAR THASSOS, BUT THE EXTENT OF THE FIELD IS NOT YET DETERMINED AND CURRENT POWER DEVELOPMENT PLANS DO NOT INCLUDE THIS RESOURCE. CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY TO SHIFT ELECTRIC GENERATION AWAY FROM OIL-FIRED UNITS WITH INCREASED USE OF HYDRO AND ESPECIALLY LIGNITE. CURRENT PLAN CALLS FOR PRODUCTION

BY 1985 OF 80 PERCENT OF KWH FROM LOCAL LIGNITE AND WATER RESOURCES. WITH REDUCTION OF OIL FROM CURRENT 46 PERCENT TO 20 PERCENT. PPC IS ONCE AGAIN FOCUSING ON POSSIBLE NUCLEAR PLANT FOR MID-1980'S. DUE TO CONCENTRATION OF GOG ENERGY POLICY ON EXPEDITIOUS IDENTIFICATION AND MAXIMUM USE OF LOCAL RESOURCES, EFFORT IS ESSENTIALLY PRAGMATIC, AND LITTLE ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THEORETICAL OR LONG-TERM RESEARCH, AS WILL BE SEEN IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

4. TYPE AND DEGREE OF WORK IN GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES - A LIMITED AMOUNT OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED AT LABORATORIES OF DEMOCRITUS RESEARCH CENTER, BUT FOR THE MOST PART GOG-FINANCED RESEARCH IS CONFINED TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF EXPLOITABLE LOCAL FUEL RESOURCES. DEMOCRITUS PARTICIPATES IN A UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM URANIUM EXPLORATION PROJECT IN NORTHERN GREECE. NIGEMIR AND THE PPC ARE ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR LIGNITE DEPOSITS, AND THE PUBLIC PETROLEUM CORPORATION FOR OIL. THE PPC CONDUCTS SMALL SCALE EXPERIMENTS IN GEOTHERMAL POWER, AND IS EXAMINING THE PROS AND CONS OF NUCLEAR POWER IN GREECE. ONE OF THE FIRST PRIORITIES OF THE ENERGY BOARD IS TO CREATE A COMPUTERIZED ENERGY DATA BANK.

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